



Mariupol & Donetsk: a tale of two cities

By Greg Butterfield

In December 2014, a young Russian communist named Andrey Sokolov was visiting the newly formed Donetsk People's Republic. He went to meet a friend who'd been driven into exile from Ukraine after the U.S.-backed far-right coup d'état in Kiev earlier that year.

Sokolov took a wrong turn and wound up at a checkpoint controlled by the Ukrainian Armed Forces. He was arrested and "disappeared" for nearly two years in the occupied city of Mariupol.

Sokolov was held for a long time in a bare cell in a secret prison. He was denied contact with the outside world, given little food, was tortured, and witnessed Ukrainian militants using cutouts of leaders from the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics for target practice.

Eventually supporters were able to track Sokolov down with help from locals. As reports seeped out about his case, and those of others "disappeared" by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion, Sokolov was offered a plea deal, which he accepted, and a court ordered him released with time served.

Upon his release, though, he was kidnapped by goons in plainclothes and held captive in another location.

Ukraine's government eventually felt obliged to allow a visit to Mariupol by human-rights investigators from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Sokolov's captors debated what to do with him. He was probably closer to death at that moment than he had ever been during his ordeal.

Eventually the order came down from above: There was too much attention to Sokolov's case to dispose of him permanently. Instead he was put in a taxi headed to the Russian border and given bus fare to Moscow. That was in the autumn of 2016 – almost two years after his fateful wrong turn.

Mariupol and the Big Lie

Mariupol has been in the news a lot recently. It's been a major hotspot in the joint military operation by the Donbass People's Republics and Russia to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine.

The U.S. and other Western media mostly ignored Mariupol for the eight years it was under fascist occupation. They couldn't have cared less for the workers and political activists like Sokolov who had to live under the thumb of the Azov Battalion and Ukrainian security forces.

Now that the Azov nazis are being routed by the Donetsk People's Militia and Russian Armed Forces, newspapers, TV networks and social media are full of stories claiming "Russian war crimes" in Mariupol.

First there was a story about Russia attacking a maternity hospital. But as Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyansky said at a

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Donetsk People's Militia troops check men leaving Mariupol for tattoos of swastikas, runes and wolfsangs marking them as neo-Nazi combatants.



PHOTOS: DONETSK NEWS AGENCY

The Emergency Campaign to STOP THE WAR LIES

By Solidarity with Donbass & Antifascists in Ukraine

The Emergency Campaign to Stop the War Lies is a grassroots effort to stop the lies and tell the truth about the U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass. It will kick off on March 20, the anniversary of the Iraq War, and culminate on the weekend of April 2 to 4, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

March 20 to 27 Local outreach to communities, students and workers, including protests and picket lines, distributions of flyers and posters, street corner speak-outs, tabling in busy areas and banner drops.

March 27 "Expose the Lies" National Webinar featuring Alexey Albu from Borotba in Lugansk, Katya A. from Aurora Women's group in Donetsk, and Kristina Melnikova, a journalist who has covered Ukraine's war on Donbass for several years. Hear directly from the independent Donbass republics under fire from Ukraine and NATO.

Weekend of Sat., April 2 to Mon., April 4 – National protests on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King, who stood against war and racism.

Join us in demanding:

- No U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass!
- Jobs, education, housing, and healthcare, not war!
- Disband NATO, AFRICOM & AUKUS!
- Close Guantanamo and all U.S. military bases – bring the troops home!
- Feed the people, not the Pentagon! No to U.S. sanctions!

Initiated by Solidarity with Donbass & Antifascists in Ukraine and Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido

Partial list of endorsers: John Parker, Socialist Unity Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California; Youth Against War & Racism; Mujeres En Lucha / Women In Struggle; Struggle-La Lucha newspaper; Communist Workers League; Workers Voice Socialist Movement; LA Black and Brown Unity – Los Angeles; Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice – Los Angeles; Peoples Power Assembly – Baltimore; Odessa Solidarity Campaign; Unemployed Workers Union; Anti-War West Sydney; Rhode Island Against White Nationalism – Providence.

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People in Donetsk bring flowers to the site where 20 people were killed by a Ukrainian missile attack.

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GM and Intel aren't heroes

By Stephen Millies

President Biden wants to be seen as a dragon slayer of wealthy Russian oligarchs. But he praised immensely richer and more powerful U.S. oligarchs in his March 1 State of the Union speech.

While conducting the "Hate Russia" war rally before Congress, Biden called out Intel's CEO Patrick Gelsinger and asked him to stand. Most of the assembled flock of representatives and senators applauded. They envy the boss with his \$116 million pay package.

The president hailed computer chip maker Intel, saying it was "the American company that helped build Silicon Valley." Biden claimed the outfit was going to invest at least \$10 billion "20 miles east of Columbus, Ohio" and will employ 10,000 people there.

One thing is certain: none of them will be union jobs. Intel fights organizing drives as viciously as Amazon does.

Why isn't Intel building the facility inside Columbus itself or at least within Franklin County, where Columbus is located? The company with revenues of \$79 billion last year is instead investing its money in adjoining Licking County.

Part of the reason could be that while Franklin County is 24% Black, African Americans in Licking County account for just 4% of its population.

High Tech in the United States is a racist and sexist cesspool. Back in 1998, Joel Dreyfuss described Silicon Valley's discrimination in *Fortune*

magazine as the "Valley of Denial."

Intel's hiring practices haven't improved much since then. Even though many of the corporation's U.S. plants are located in areas with large Latinx populations, just 10% of its U.S. employees in 2019 were Latinx.

Only 4.9% of its U.S. workers were Black. Women were a mere 27.4% of Intel's global workforce.

Despite this bias, Black scientists and inventors were pioneers in the computer field. Roy Clark set up Hewlett-Packard's first software development lab in 1965. Marc Hannah's Ph.D. thesis was the basis of starting Silicon Graphics.

Dr. Mark Dean – who became IBM's director of advanced technology development – holds three of the nine patents which made desktop computers available for personal use. Dean designed the ISA systems bus, which allows the linking of printers and modems with computers.

Dr. Sandra Baylor helped develop the prototype for "Deep Blue," IBM's chess machine.

More auto workers fired

President Biden also praised Ford and GM for investing billions in electric cars. The man in the White House didn't mention that electric vehicles will require fewer parts, which means fewer jobs.

GM is no hero in Flint, Michigan. When the Black-majority city was the center of GM's manufacturing empire, Flint had the highest median income in Michigan. But since GM

shut down nine of its 10 local plants, Flint became desperately poor.

It's now the poorest of all U.S. cities with populations over 65,000. Sixty percent of Flint's children live in poverty.

GM is just as guilty of poisoning Flint's children with polluted water as is former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. It was the loss of Flint's tax base because of GM's cutbacks which was the excuse to pump filthy water from the Flint River.

GM's flight from Flint reflected the determination of U.S. heavy industry to get away from their dependence on Black labor. Back in 1968, Black workers accounted for a quarter of the employees in auto plants and steel mills. ("Organized Labor and the Black Worker 1619-1973," by Philip S. Foner.)

These workers were a vital part of the liberation movement. The League of Revolutionary Black Workers was formed in Detroit. The Black Panther party had a caucus in Fremont, California's GM plant, which is now a non-union Tesla factory.

Ford's Rouge plant was once the world's largest factory complex, with its own steel mill and glass works. By 1974 half of the workers there were Black, including 65% of those on

its assembly lines. ("Black Workers' Struggles in Detroit's Auto Industry, 1935-1975," by Kuniko Fujita.)

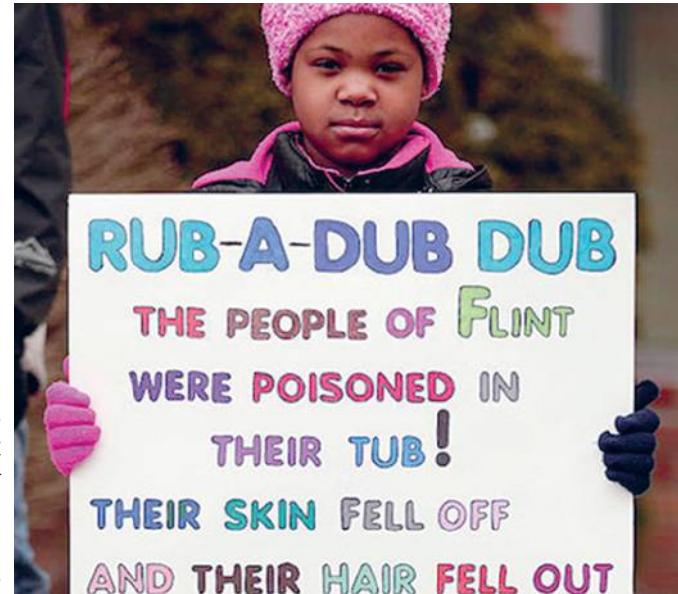
Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin isn't responsible for any of the jobs that were stolen in Flint or elsewhere. When Russia and Ukraine were part of the socialist Soviet Union, everyone there had a job.

Socialist Ukraine, particularly its Donbass region, was a center of heavy industry in the Soviet Union. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund urged that it be shut down, just like what happened in the United States.

Since 2014, workers in Donbass have been fighting a Ukrainian regime that came to power with the use of fascist thugs. These criminals have killed over 14,000 people in the Donbass republics.

Our struggle isn't against the Russian Federation but against the hundreds of billionaire oligarchs and banksters here in the U.S.

Stop the war against the Donbass and Russia. Start more struggles against the rich. ■



Get our children to school on time!

By Stephen Millies

New York — A rally in Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza on March 19 demanded better school transportation. They were sick and tired of school bus routes that guarantee children having to wait for and stay on school buses for too long.

The rally was organized by Parents to Improve School Transportation (PIST) and the Comité Timon. These groups are demanding a school bus bill of rights to ensure respect for the riders' civil rights, the workers' job rights and everyone's safety.

It's not the bus operators or matrons' fault. They want to do the best job in getting children needing special education to school.

A delegation of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181-1061 members came to support the fight for transportation inclusion, equity and reform for students.

New York City spends over \$1 billion a year on transportation but the system is all screwed up. Many school bus routes are misdesigned.

Children often have to spend more than an hour on a bus each way with no bathroom breaks. This is especially rough for kids with disabilities.

The problems started when billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg tried to break ATU Local 1181-1061. Mayor Money Bags ripped up the Employee Protection Provisions that guaranteed living wages and



Protest for better school transportation in Brooklyn on March 19.

work conditions.

The EPP were removed from a significant fraction of the route packages that private companies bid upon. This drove down the companies' bids overall. The bus outfits took the difference out of newly hired workers' wages and benefits.

As Tomas Fret, Recording Secretary ATU Local 1181-1061 said, we want to make the job a career again. Mothers spoke of their children dreading the long bus rides.

"The Department of Education, the bus companies, the state and city officials, lie about the crisis of school

buses in New York," said Greg Butterfield, whose two daughters attend Brooklyn public schools. "They lie about the safety of conditions for students with special needs, drivers and aides. They lie about the safety of all students, teachers and school workers."

"And at the national level they lie about U.S. wars," Butterfield added.

"The budget measure signed by President Biden this week cut money for COVID public health measures in order to send billions of dollars more in deadly weapons to Ukraine. U.S. sanctions on Russia are driving up

gas prices that not only hurt drivers today, but will be used as an excuse by the bus companies and the DOE for why they can't afford to make the changes to protect children and workers."

After the rally people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Department of Education headquarters on Chambers Street. It's located in an old courthouse whose construction 150 years ago Boss Tweed used to loot \$20 million.

That sort of corruption and neglect causes misery for thousands of schoolchildren today. Stop violations of access to education! ■

Fund the movement for racial justice and equality, not the police!

By Gloria Verdieu and John Parker

March 2, the day after President Joe Biden delivered the State of the Union speech, 12-year-old Thomas Siderio was shot and killed by Philadelphia police officers.

Investigators say that a bullet was fired into an unmarked police vehicle with four undercover police officers inside. Two officers got out of the car and fired at Siderio. One chased him, then shot him in the back while he was running away.

The Philadelphia police commissioner said the officer who killed Siderio will be fired at the end of his 30-day suspension due to violations of the "use of force policy" directive that prohibits shooting someone who is fleeing and not pointing a gun at the officer. The police say it is unknown who fired at the police car. News reports say the police suspect it was one of two young men they were following, not Siderio.

The Family and Friends of Siderio mourned the loss days after he was shot and killed by police. They are confused and looking for answers. Siderio's former foster mom said, "I feel that I failed him, I admit it; we tried. I love him to death; and I will always miss him." His biological mom hired a high-powered law firm to take his case.

President Biden in his speech, recounted his recent visit to the New York City Police Department days after the funerals of two police officers.

He went on to claim that the Justice Department is assuring police accountability, requiring body cameras, banning the choke hold, and restricting no-knock warrants. That's what they say. But most significantly, Biden nearly led a chant of "Fund the police, fund them, fund them."

Biden added that the \$350 billion tax provided under his "American

Rescue Plan" is to be used for cities, states, and counties "to hire more police."

This statement drew much applause and a standing ovation from the privileged audience present listening to Biden's speech in Washington, D.C. Vice President Kamala Harris and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi stood in full view behind Biden.

Workers want change

How do the workers in the U.S., who pay more than their fair share of taxes, react to Biden's statement? Workers want to change policing by minimizing the presence and contact with armed, militarized police in our states, cities, counties and communities. Workers — employed and unemployed — in Black, Brown, and poor communities are calling for community control of policing. They want tax dollars to fund livable wages, childcare, schools, college education, housing, physical and mental health care, and action on climate change. They want a real response to the economic juggernaut resulting from the pandemic and the U.S. fueling war against Russia.

How did the workers respond when Biden said, "Let's not abandon our streets and choose between safety and equal justice? Let's come together."

Coming together is what workers are doing. Employed and unemployed workers are fighting, protesting in the streets against violence and for equal justice, peacefully in solidarity. Yet, they are being met with armed police, tear gas, pellet bullets, dogs, horses, and armored police vans.

The movement for justice and against racist police violence has never been about causing harm or committing violent acts against po-



lice and the capitalists. Republicans and Democrats know this. It is about safety on both sides. It is not a competition to see who is killing more people — police or civilians.

How many youths age 17 and under were killed by the police from 2015 to present? According to the Washington Post database "Killed by the Police," some 122 youths age 17 and under were shot by the police between 2015 and 2022; of that, 31 were unarmed or in possession of a toy gun. That's an average of 17 youths per year.

The police must be placed at a higher standard because people expect the police to be there to protect and serve. The police, like an army, are trained professionals who should know the difference between a taser and a gun, who should have knowledge of the laws and abide by them, and should not be threatening if they must pull you over for a violation.

Many people at home or in public call 911 when they sense danger; some feel a bit safer when there is a police station or noticeable police officers patrolling the streets of their community. However, for many

in Black and Brown communities the opposite is felt. Some seek police to handle stressful domestic disputes or ask the police for guidance when lost. Many in Black and Brown communities seek the police only when things have reached the point of extreme desperation, as they are unsure of the police response. And when the police fail them, they all realize that the police reflect the racist, oppressive, and violent system we live in.

Many people believe that individual police officers are good, but there are a few that poison the whole criminal justice system. Police brutality and the disrespectful, dehumanizing treatment of oppressed communities is a daily occurrence that's not restricted to just a few. Even if it were only a few, the brutality and abuse is so prevalent that all police are aware of its occurrence but refuse to act to stop it or even report it. The few who have spoken out found themselves fired from the force. So the remaining police are complicit, whether they participate directly in the be-

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Fund, fund, fund the police — really Biden?

By John Parker

I am not a Republican (if I were, these days that would make me a supporter and/or enabler of white supremacy and the ideology of fascism).

I am also not a Democrat (a party that now mimics Republicans because it seems the only thing that matters is winning those Trump supporters in the next election).

That conservative trajectory led President Biden to chanting during his State of the Union address, that in the context of the reality of racist police murder, conjured images of lynchings and cross burnings to me — and I'm sure I'm not alone among many Black people paying attention. The chant was in opposition to the very moderate demand of taking some funds from the police. "Fund the police, Fund them, Fund them" he exclaimed as if he was preaching the gospel. And, it looked in fact like he was preaching to the choir since he got a standing ovation in the House chambers.

Biden is not worried about Black voters. He thinks we as Black people have no choice. During the last election he said if we didn't vote for him we weren't Black. He joins Joe Rogan in thinking he knows what it is to be Black.

His version of being Black is like being Eric Adams, the right-wing mayor from New York City who uses his African American ethnicity and willingness to push racist policing policies as a means to further his political career. Mayor Adams is now reviving the plainclothes crime units that were responsible for 31% of fatal police shootings in 2018, despite being only 6% of the police force in the city, according to a study by the Intercept.

Many will remember that in 1999 an unarmed 23-year-old Guinean immigrant and student named Amadou Diallo was also shot by four plainclothes NYC cops and killed, simply for reaching for an identification card.

Then there is Vice President Kamala Harris, another person of Af-

ican ethnicity preferred by Biden, and one of the people to stand up immediately in that standing ovation for the "fund them" chant. Vice President Harris, before becoming vice president, was the top cop in California as the Attorney General — who would not allow a reform to go through that would have forced prosecutors to finally prosecute killer cops.

According to the prestigious international scientific journal, the Lancet, in a study examining fatal police violence by race and state in the U.S. from 1980–2019, the unwillingness to consistently prosecute criminal murder by police is what maintains this systemic nightmare: "Accountability and transparency in policing are lacking, as evidenced by ongoing problems with under-reporting. Police officers who kill civilians are rarely charged with a crime; Mapping Police Violence reports that in 2017, of 1,147 deaths, officers were charged with a crime in 13 cases, or 1% of the time. Police violence and racism in policing in the USA are not

new or unexplained problems; they are the current manifestations of a system that was built to uphold racial hierarchy for most of the USA's history." [my emphasis -JP]

On the other hand, the type of Black people Biden doesn't like would be Assata Shakur, former Black Panther who was exiled to Cuba due to a racist frameup by police. In fact, Biden's administration has a bounty on her life. Or George Jackson, a Black Panther and political prisoner who was assassinated by prison cops in 1971. And Claudia Jones, a Black communist born in 1915 and deported from the U.S. as an adult due to her powerful activism and, like Fred Hampton, skills at uniting our class and advocating solidarity with the most oppressed.

Claudia Jones and Fred Hampton especially understood that real solidarity with the oppressed is only possible when our working class has a scientific understanding of how this capitalist society works. In

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Texas: Hands off trans youth!

By Greg Butterfield

Trans people, and especially youth, are under attack in state capitols across the U.S. And the most egregious attack so far has come in a state that is a stronghold of the neo-fascist takeover of the Republican Party – Texas.

On Feb. 17, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a “nonbinding opinion” that gender-affirming treatment for trans children and youth amounted to “child abuse.” Paxton’s outrageous claim came on the heels of the failure of a bill with similar language to advance in the state legislature.

The very next day, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order giving Paxton’s “opinion” the weight of law, and ordering the Department of Family and Protective Services to begin investigating families and healthcare providers of trans children on suspicion of “child abuse.”

Abbott also ordered state employees – including teachers and healthcare workers – to report any known trans children to DFPS or face firing and prosecution themselves.

Texas authorities immediately began an aggressive and very public campaign to threaten trans children’s families and health providers, including one mother who is herself an employee of the DFPS. She was placed on leave while an inquiry was opened into her 16-year-old’s case.

A judge temporarily halted the investigations on March 11 in response to a legal challenge brought by the family of a trans teenager. Abbott immediately appealed the decision.

Meanwhile, hospitals like UT Southwestern in Dallas have moved to end all gender-affirming care for trans children and youth, in the same way many public and private clinics and hospitals have ended reproductive services for women out of fear of being prosecuted (and los-



ing profits) under Texas’ Draconian abortion ban that went into effect last year.

What happens in Texas

Texas has become ground zero for some of the most reactionary and divisive laws in the United States: against the voting rights of Black people, against women’s right to choose, against the right to teach a shred of truth about U.S. history – and now, against trans children and their families.

What happens in Texas doesn’t stay in Texas. It becomes a template for the far-right across the country, and helps to push the entire mainstream political ecosystem to the right – since spineless Democratic Party bosses respond to the desires of Wall Street, Big Oil and the military industry, rather than the people who vote for them.

A prime example is Oklahoma, where the state legislature is poised to enact an abortion ban similar to the one imposed in Texas last year. Like Texas, the Oklahoma measure “rewards” people for turning in their neighbors and healthcare providers.

NBC News reported March 20: “State lawmakers have proposed a record 238 bills that would limit

the rights of LGBTQ Americans this year – or more than three per day – with about half of them targeting transgender people specifically.”

The transparent goal of these laws, piling one upon the other, is to divide and atomize the working class so that we cannot fight back as capitalists and their political agents drive up prices and drive down wages, erode union rights and terrorize communities of color.

To achieve their ends, these proponents of “traditional family values” are only too happy to sacrifice children and their families as they whip up hate and division.

Democrats like Joe Biden, who gave lip service to trans rights in his war-mongering State of the Union address, have proven over and over that they can’t be relied upon to do anything to protect people’s rights – just as they have done nothing serious to defend voting rights or the right to abortion.

We won’t go back!

Fortunately, people are fighting back. They’re taking to the streets, in Texas and elsewhere, to defend the rights of trans children and their families.

Hundreds of people converged on the governor’s mansion and state



Families and supporters of trans youth protest at the governor’s mansion in Austin, Texas, March 13.

capitol in Austin March 13 for a protest called “Trans Children Cry for HELP!” The event was loud, colorful and militant, with families, activists, kids and elders united against Abbott’s attack.

“Kids wearing trans- and rainbow-pride flags as capes ran around under the warm afternoon sun, while adults held signs that proclaimed ‘this teacher will not comply’ and ‘Abbott is a useless clownish bully,’” the Dallas News reported.

“Tracy and Matt, a couple who declined to give their last name for fear of investigation, came to the rally from nearby Schertz to show support for their 12-year-old transgender son. ‘We came for our son, who was too scared,’ Tracy said.”

The protesters created a human wall to shield children and families from provocations by supporters of Alex Jones’ far-right “InfoWars” outfit.

Protests to defend trans children in Texas and everywhere must continue and grow. And the working-class movement must urgently take up the task of defending all the communities under attack by building a united fight-back movement that can sweep away the neo-Nazis and their enablers from Austin to Washington, D.C. □

Gay communist on Russia, fascism and USSR’s legacy

By Gregory E. Williams

Some using the “Russia is an imperialist power” line are also weaponizing the fact of homophobia in Russia, as they do when referring to the Stalin period in the Soviet Union. This is one way that they stigmatize opponents as “tankies” and “Stalinists.”

Yes, I’m gay. And yes, I uphold the Soviet Union’s role as the bulwark that supported socialist and liberation movements throughout the world for the majority of the 20th century.

This was true even with a relatively conservative (socially and economically) leadership at the head of the first lasting workers’ state. The Soviet leadership did retreat from the most progressive gender and sexuality advances made in the early days of the revolution, just as they retreated from international revolutionary commitments.

But when push came to shove, the Soviet Union beat back fascism and especially its most virulent form,

Nazism. Fascism was arguably the biggest organized threat to LGBTQ2S people in history, after classical colonialism. And the Soviet Union provided critical support throughout the world to national liberation movements, thereby being essential to the overthrow of direct colonialism almost everywhere.

The Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact ensured that there was no war in Europe from the late 1940s until well into the 1990s. The vibrant queer cultures in West Germany, not to mention the German Democratic Republic and elsewhere, were possible in part because war and far-right movements were no longer ravaging the continent.

All of this — the gains made by socialism undermining the basis of various oppressions, including abolishing the root causes of imperialist war; defeating fascism and colonialism — were essential to every aspect of LGBTQ2S liberation, and we are all the beneficiaries.



Russian sailors in the 1917 Revolution. After the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks scrapped all anti-LGBTQ2S laws.

Washington.

If capitalist Russia today has its internal problems with homophobia and transphobia, this in no way negates the fact that U.S. imperialism is the biggest danger in the world and that it is crucial to defeat the NATO/fascist advance in Eastern Europe.

Calling anyone who upholds the revolutionary legacy of the Soviet Union an anti-LGBTQ2S “Stalinist” is also completely disingenuous. There are some of these homophobic elements in our midst. But plenty of LGBTQ2S people understand the importance of defending the various 20th century revolutions and that these revolutions are the backdrop to every contemporary advance in gender and sexuality politics.

So I really do not take seriously the superficial dismissals in the form of, “Don’t you know that Stalin was socially conservative? That’s what you support whether you know it or not.” □

The main threat in the world today is the U.S. imperialist-led camp. Everywhere they have supported right-wing death squads, Islamists against progressive movements and governments, austerity that hurts and even kills the most vulnerable, including LGBTQ2S people.

Everything that the U.S. imperialists have supported worldwide has turned the tide against movements for liberation. They’ve bombed the infrastructure of countries into non-existence and allowed for the return of warlordism and slave markets.

The supposedly “good” countries of Eastern Europe (i.e., not Belarus) are a playground for neo-Nazi forces. In these countries, there has been an erosion of LGBTQ2S rights, through the period of alliance with

Food, gas, rents soaring – never mind, Congress hikes U.S./NATO war dollars

By Sharon Black

The chant “money for war, can’t feed the poor” best describes the \$1.5 trillion spending package passed by Congress and signed by President Biden on March 10.

An astounding \$782 billion went to the Pentagon and military spending, while \$715 billion will go to “domestic” spending areas. Domestic is in quotes because that doesn’t always mean spending on people’s needs.

Billions in extra aid to US/NATO war in Ukraine

Congress added \$13.6 billion in aid to Ukraine. This is not part of the Pentagon budget; it is above and beyond.

It includes \$3.5 billion in military equipment and \$3 billion for deploying U.S. troops to the region. This aid also gives \$2.65 billion to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), of which \$120 million is slated for so-called activists, journalists, and so-called independent media to promote anti-Russia messaging.



lion is slated for so-called activists, journalists, and so-called independent media to promote anti-Russia messaging.

The extra \$13.6 billion is in addition to the \$300 million for allies and partners in the region. This \$300 million includes \$180 million for the Baltic Security Initiative, \$30 million for Poland, \$30 million for Romania, \$20 million for Bulgaria, and \$40 million for Georgia.

\$23 billion to ICE and CBP

While the State Department will spend \$1.4 billion to fund migration and refugee assistance to Ukrainian immigrants, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) treatment of Haitian refugees on the southern border is starkly different. There was also no mention of African students and refugees trying to get out of Ukraine.

In this \$13 billion, \$1.06 billion will go toward Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processing facilities and transportation to immigrant detention camps — a boondoggle for the private prison industries. In addition, \$72.4 million is being allocated in new aircraft and aircraft sensors to hunt down Black and Brown refugees.

\$15.6 billion COVID relief fund cut

Those communities still languishing from the COVID pandemic will not see funds. It was stripped from the budget!

In addition, if you thought that working and poor people were getting any relief from staggering price increases at grocery stores and the gas pump. Think again.

Yes, “Money for War, Can’t Feed the Poor!” is real. ☒

Their oligarchs and ours

By Stephen Millies

Jeff Bezos’ \$500 million yacht was a hot news item back in February. The ship was so large that in order to move it from a Dutch shipyard a bridge in Rotterdam would have to be disassembled.

That obscene display of wealth by the union-busting Amazon boss could easily have built housing for over a thousand homeless families. Yet the media is now silent about Bezos’ yacht.

Instead the internet is buzzing about yachts belonging to Russian billionaires being seized. Why are rich Russian scoundrels called “oligarchs” while U.S. billionaires are treated like movie stars?

The different treatment even extends to dictionaries. The Oxford dictionary featured by the Google search engine gives this definition for oligarch: “(especially in Russia) a very rich business leader with a great deal of political influence.”

Who has more political influence than U.S. billionaires? They control the U.S. government from the top to bottom.

They often run for office themselves like the former money bags mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg. Supreme Court justices are groomed in their corporate law firms and Ivy League law schools.

The wealthy and powerful have been running the U.S. since before 1776. Nearly three out of four signers of the Declaration of Independence owned enslaved Africans.

The U.S. Constitution was largely written by those who had a financial interest in the government taking over the debts of the states. This was shown by historian Charles Beard in “An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.”

Red, white and blue oligarchs are immensely richer than the Russian variety. The 400 richest U.S. billionaires last year had a total wealth of \$4.5 trillion.

That’s 12 times as much as the \$375 billion stash of Russia’s billionaires.

Wall Street’s empire controls vast areas that the Roman emperors never even knew existed. The U.S. Navy’s Seventh Fleet threatens China while throttling the Pacific Ocean like it’s Lake Michigan.

Fortunes are theft

The French novelist Balzac allegedly wrote that “behind every great fortune lies a great crime.” Gustavus Myers wanted to see if that was true.

Apologists for the super rich claimed that they got their dough honestly by hard work and smarts. Myers found otherwise in his “History of the Great American Fortunes,” published a century ago.

U.S. tycoons got to the top of the heap not only from slavery, child labor, low wages, broken strikes and dangerous working conditions. Myers’ investigation proved that just as crucial for the captains of industry was breaking laws and stealing from other capitalists.

John D. Rockefeller — the founder of Big Oil who became the world’s first billionaire — had his brother bomb a rival oil refinery in Buffalo, New York.

The Astors became the hemisphere’s biggest slumlords by taking the profits stolen from Indigenous nations in the fur trade and investing it in New York City real estate. Also necessary was bribing Michigan territorial governor Lewis Cass. New York city council members were paid off in a waterfront land grab.

A whole series of U.S. billionaires are war profiteers. The Du Ponts’ fortune hit the big time with World War I. They used the profits to buy up General Motors.

In the years leading up to his presidency, Donald Trump was so tied in to organized crime that the state of New Jersey refused at first to give him a gambling license.

The Hearst family’s media fortune

Jeff Bezos’ \$500 million yacht – too large to move without tearing out a bridge in Rotterdam.



includes the San Francisco Chronicle, 23 other newspapers, dozens of TV stations and ESPN, which is jointly owned with Disney. These outlets attack Russia and ignore the neo-Nazi gangs in Ukraine that function like a Ku Klux Klan.

According to “Citizen Hearst,” by W. A. Swanberg, the Hearst riches began before the U.S. Civil War in a Missouri lead mine. George Hearst didn’t hire miners; he bought miners who were enslaved Africans.

If an honest title search was conducted into the origins of the biggest fortunes it would find that they were based on theft. It’s tens of millions of unpaid and underpaid workers who actually produced their wealth.

Birth of the oligarchs

Karl Marx pointed out that it was the African Holocaust and the genocide of Indigenous peoples in the Americas that jumpstarted the capitalist world market. He described capitalism’s birth as “dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.”

The origin of the Russian billionaires is much more recent. It was the U.S. capitalist government that’s responsible. The Pentagon spent at least \$5.5 trillion on nuclear weapons aimed at the Soviet Union.

Under this unrelenting pressure, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev threw in the towel. The door was open for overthrowing socialism. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund demanded the privatization of the industries that had been built by the working class.

Russian oligarchs never would have been able to steal trillions of dollars of socialist property without Boris Yeltsin’s assault on the Congress of People’s Deputies. Hundreds of people were killed there in October 1993.

The U.S. media either applauded the massacre or were silent about it. Their attitude was much the same about the bloody U.S. wars against Panama, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Yet we’re supposed to believe them when they tell us the Russian Federation is committing war crimes in Ukraine.

The 1993 massacre allowed a fire sale of Soviet assets that were gobbled up by the new Russian tycoons. One of the reasons the wealthy hate Belarus is that it was the only former Soviet Republic that didn’t give away the bulk of its nationalized property.

The Russian billionaires have invested hundreds of billions in London and New York City money markets. This flight of capital helped prop up the U.S. dollar and British pound.

The oligarchs in the former Soviet Republics are justly hated by the poor and working people there. The working class there will have to deal with them like the workers did in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

We have our own oligarchs to deal with. They own half the earth and are the enemies of humankind.

Don’t let our struggle against racism and poverty be derailed by a war drive against Russia. ☒

Ukrainian authorities unleash witch hunt

By Alexey Albu

March 10 – The Ukrainian authorities, being in a state of shock and fearing for their fate, organized a widespread witch hunt. Every day in the territories controlled by Kiev, there are detentions, abductions and torture of political activists and civilians who disagree with the policies of the central government.

People simply disappear and only a few days later, after relatives or friends start sounding the alarm, it becomes clear that something has happened to them. Political activists and public figures who opposed the Ukrainian authorities are now recording uncharacteristic video messages to the Russian authorities and Russian society.

This is how it became known that Kiev political scientist Dmitry Dzhangirov was kidnapped a few days ago. Thousands of Dmitry's subscribers noticed that an anti-Russian statement was broadcast on the air of his YouTube channel "Capital," which makes us all think that Dmitry Dzhangirov is alive, but held captive by nationalists or Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) officers.

The well-known Kiev political ac-



tivist Dmitry Skvortsov stated on his Facebook page that SBU officers were breaking into his apartment. He wasn't heard from again.

A few days ago, the head of the Leninist Communist Youth League of Ukraine, Mikhail Kononovich, and his twin brother, head of the anti-fascist union, Alexander Kononovich, were kidnapped in Kiev.

On March 3, Alexander Matyushenko, a left-wing activist from Dnipro Petrovsk, was one of the first to be repressed. He is currently being held in a pre-trial detention center on charges of treason without a

court decision. Alexander's partner is raising funds to pay for a lawyer. Most lawyers in Ukraine are afraid to take such cases or charge large amounts of money to do so. If you would like to contribute to his defense, contact SolidarityUkraineAntifa [at] gmail [dot] com.

On March 4, militants of the territorial defense of Kiev detained an opposition politician and parliamentarian, Nestor Shufrich. Shocking footage of the illegal interrogation spread around the world, but this did not stop the punishers.

On March 7, in Odessa, armed Ukrainian militants burst into the apartment of the parents of well-known journalist Alexander Voskoboinikov. They demanded that the door be opened for them or they would knock it down. When the parents opened it, the nationalists went in with weapons in their hands.

We have all witnessed horrific footage of the torture of prisoners of war, including a military pilot. When he was wounded and captured by the Ukrainian Nazis, they called his wife from his phone and told her to look for a new husband, hinting that they would kill him.

It is impossible to watch without

tears the video in which Ukrainian emergency doctors, instead of providing medical care, mock patients by exerting moral pressure on them and filming it on cameras.

All these egregious facts testify to the widespread and gross violation of basic human rights. All these facts testify to the violation of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, adopted on August 12, 1949.

We believe that the people of the U.S. and Europe need to know who their governments support. They should know that their taxes are spent on torture and abuse, on the maintenance of neo-Nazi organizations, which in many countries, including Russia, are considered illegal.

We urge you to go to the consulates and embassies of Ukraine and demand the release of illegally detained politicians and activists. Demand an end to the witch hunt. Demand respect for human rights and the Geneva Conventions!

They can still be saved!

Alexey Albu is a coordinator of Borotba (Struggle) and a survivor of the Odessa massacre. He has lived in exile from Ukraine since 2014.

Translated by Greg Butterfield

Mariupol & Donetsk: a tale of two cities

Continued from Page 1

UN Security Council meeting, there were no patients in the hospital; it was being used as an Azov base. Local residents had reported that days before.

Then it was the city's theater that Russia had allegedly attacked, killing many civilians sheltering inside. Photos of the blown-out theater were plastered across screens worldwide. But later, the quisling Mariupol City Council quietly admitted that nobody died. According to Russian and DPR sources, the theater explosion was actually carried out by Azov. (The Grayzone has published an extensive investigation around the theater claims.)

A Turkish mosque in the city was said to have been attacked by Russian troops. But no. "Our mosque remained undamaged," Ismail Hacioglu told Andalou Agency March 12.

More recently, the claim was made about a school being attacked. Many children supposedly dead or wounded as a result. But again, it was a case of Azov using civilian facilities to hide its paramilitaries and storehouses of weapons.

The Biden administration, NATO and the corporate media don't believe the claims they make, and they don't really care if they are later exposed as untrue. The impact comes from piling lie upon lie, confident that the original outrage is what will be remembered. So many people "know" it happened, it must be true.

U.S. imperialism is the best student of Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels' strategy of the "Big Lie."

Mariupol belongs to DPR

Mariupol is not part of Ukraine, as the media claim. It's part of the Donetsk People's Republic. It's the DPR's only major seaport.

Mariupol's occupation by Ukraine since mid-2014 has caused enormous harm to the people of Donbass, because it prevents them from being able to move goods through the Sea of Azov.

More than that: it's been a seething wound in the republic's side. The Azov nazis, armed and trained by NATO, have launched many attacks on civilians in free Donetsk from their stronghold. And it posed a constant threat near the border with Russia.

Washington and Kiev stockpiled weapons and troops in Mariupol for the planned Ukrainian invasion of Donbass earlier this year – an invasion cut short only by the defensive military operation by Donetsk, Luhansk and Russia.

Now, block by block, building by building, Mariupol is being liberated at last as DPR and Russian troops advance, driving the Azov rats into a shrinking zone. On March 23, the Donetsk government reported that 70% of residential buildings had been cleared of occupiers.

For the first month of the armed conflict, Azov held the residents of Mariupol hostage. They repeatedly sabotaged the humanitarian corridors Russian and DPR troops provided for civilians to safely leave the city, even shooting people trying to leave. Only when the assault on the city had begun and the neo-Nazis began to lose ground were people able to begin fleeing in large numbers.

Refugees from Mariupol are being welcomed in areas of the DPR away from the front lines, and in Western Russia. As they leave the city, the armies of liberation provide them with water, food and first aid. Many tell journalists harrowing stories of their ordeal under Azov rule.

Regular Ukrainian soldiers who put down their weapons are also free to

evacuate. But first DPR Militia troops check all men leaving the city for tattoos that would mark them as fascist combatants trying to sneak out.

By the way: When DPR and Russian troops liberated the Mariupol airport, they uncovered an abandoned secret prison run by the Azov Battalion. Perhaps this is where Andrei Sokolov was held.

Donetsk under fire

In contrast, Donetsk, the capital city of the DPR, is a place you don't hear about much. Its inhabitants are only referred to in the corporate media as "separatists" and "Putin's proxies." To Azov and the other Ukrainian nazi groups, they are "roaches" and "cat-tle" fit only for slaughter.

But the residents of Donetsk are multinational workers. Miners and metalworkers. Teachers and students. Activists and political refugees. Mothers and fathers, grandparents, children. Notice that Joe Biden and Lindsay Graham have no disagreement on this: You shouldn't know they exist, or care when they are killed.

As the People's Militia has pushed forward to liberate the occupied portions of their region, like Mariupol, the increasingly desperate Ukrainian troops dug in on the outskirts of Donetsk have been lashing out, deliberately targeting civilians (as they have throughout their eight-year war on Donbass) with increasingly deadly weapons.

These aren't fabricated or exaggerated stories like those in Mariupol and other areas of Ukraine, reported by CNN and the New York Times through crocodile tears. These are the lives of working-class people who have been subject to nearly a decade of endless war and blockade, but have stayed strong and resisted the U.S.-orchestrated attacks on them.

On March 14, a Tochka-U mis-

sile was fired by Ukrainian forces at downtown Donetsk. There are no military installations in the area; the only purpose was to terrorize the population.

DPR air defense shot down the missile, saving untold lives. Unfortunately, one of the cluster bombs in the missile's payload survived, and hit the ground on a busy street. At least 20 people were killed, including a child and senior citizens on a bus. Dozens were wounded.

Cluster munitions are banned under international law. Their use is a war crime.

The next day, another missile was launched at Makeyevka on the outskirts of Donetsk – an area that has been pummeled nearly daily for years by Ukrainian artillery. This time, luckily, no one died, but six people were wounded, including two children.

Another attack came March 18 on a shopping area in Donetsk. Four women were killed.

Since then, Ukraine's military fired Tochka-U missiles on the Proletarskiy and Zelyonyi districts of Makeyevka March 21 and Karla Markska township in Enakiyevo on March 22.

Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations called out Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo, who repeated unsubstantiated claims about Russia's conduct but "did not find a single word to say about today's strike by a Ukrainian Tochka-U missile with a cluster bomb at central Donetsk."

In 2014, the people of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions voted for independence and their right to live free of a Ukraine dominated by fascists and U.S.-NATO imperialism. They have resisted untold horrors for eight years – horrors which continue today. Their struggle is a righteous one, and they will win. □

'We must remain on the correct side of history'

By John Parker

War drives present avalanches of biased information, making difficult the discernment of reality vs what is simply war propaganda. Our corporate media, as in all war drives, switched gears from seemingly objective reporting to robotic allegiance to one narrative of the U.S. No person or organization wants to lose friends and support taking stands for truth in such an environment.

But if we don't, who will highlight the alternative media sources in Ukraine reporting a totally different story? Corporate media reruns lies of the Gulf of Tonkin, babies thrown from incubators, etc., to allow, this time, the most dangerous threat to humanity: NATO's continued expansion. This expansion has nearly doubled NATO in 20 years.

In that time, we've seen its aggressive nation-destroying power cause the death of millions, a worldwide refugee crisis and the creation and enabling of terrorist organizations from ISIS to the rise of neo-Nazis now officially in the Ukrainian government. Neo-Nazi military organizations, funded with billions of dollars and training from the U.S.

Fund the police – really Biden?

Continued from page 3

considering the entities of capitalism, for example, the military and police – what are their functions in keeping capitalism alive. For those answers they also studied another revolutionary – Vladimir Lenin, leader of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia in 1917, a revolution that allowed, for the first time, working people – our class – to take control over the factories, land and machinery to utilize them for their benefit. And, it's a good thing because it was the only country capable of stopping Nazi Germany during World War II because of its non-privatized and centralized method of production and its anti-fascist ideology.

But before the 1917 Bolshevik revolution could happen, it would take the working people, agricultural workers and unemployed, to understand who were their friends and allies and who were their enemies. Lenin understood that the legislators, military and police were in place to protect the capitalist system of exploitation by any means and at all costs, especially including the taking of life, whether by the denial of basic social services or through a bullet. This is why the police keep us in fear and target the most exploited as the system pushes us further into poverty.

That right arm of capitalism – the police who protect the haves from the have nots – will never be negotiated or voted away as long as capitalism exists, unless the ruling class is forced to disband them by a mightier force than their cops and military.

We have the potential to become that force by understanding our

government, led the war crimes against the people of Donbass for the last eight years, killing 14,000.

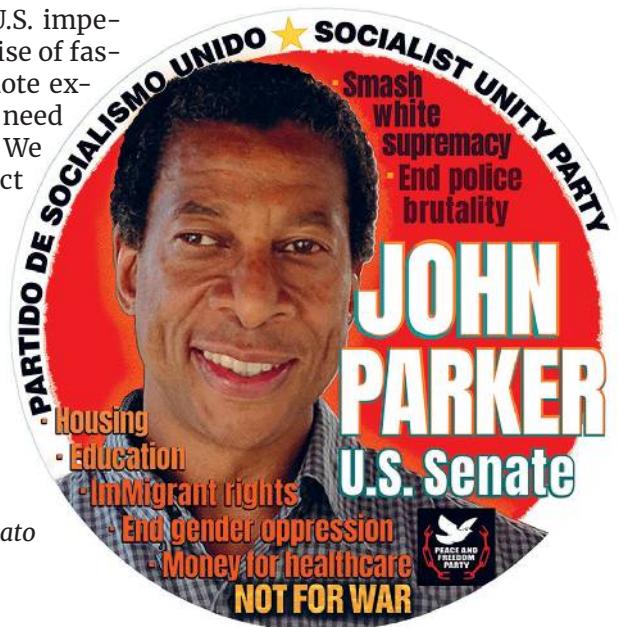
Last November's appointment by President Zelensky of Nazi leader Dmitro Yarosh as adviser to Commander of Ukrainian Armies explains why Luhansk and Donetsk, now independent republics, had every right to ask for Russia's help. And it was also Russia's right to stop an existential threat on its borders – including the real possibility of a Nazi-led, white supremacist military possessing NATO weaponry.

This war will only stop and not escalate when the U.S. is forced to end the expansion. We must target the

root cause of this war – U.S. imperialism – and expose the rise of fascism, not cower and promote excuses they so desperately need to justify their proxy war. We must remain on the correct side of history.

John Parker is a leading member of the Socialist Unity Party and a longtime member of PFP. He is the PFP candidate for U.S. Senate in Election 2022.

Source: <https://www.peace-andfreedom.us/positions/pfp-chair-statements/pfp-statements-war-russia-ukraine-nato>



Call for solidarity with Ukrainian leftists under repression

By Repression of the Left and Dissenters in Ukraine

Since the Russian intervention in Ukraine, representatives of the far-right and liberal milieu have been spreading calls for violence and even for the killing of those who had previously publicly advocated the implementation of the Minsk agreements, against "decommunisation"

power and ability to make their system come to a halt. There are many more of us than there are of them. And, it's only our labor that is fundamental to the creation of their wealth – we just need unity and solidarity.

We also need to understand that our Black, Brown and Indigenous communities must have the right to banish these cops from our neighborhoods and the right to the resources to train and develop our own community entities of safety and protection. We must do more than defund – WE MUST DISARM AND DISBAND the police.

If not, we will be sentenced to hearing the endless nonsense from President Biden and others as solutions, which actually encourage more police terror and murder – so more Amadou Diallo tragedies will occur. By the way, Diallo's killers, the four cops, remain free and after the incident were even offered their jobs back.

And, on March 2, the day after President Joe Biden delivered that State of the Union speech, Thomas Siderio, a 12-year-old boy was shot and killed by Philadelphia police.

Don't give Biden and the enablers of genocide a pass – let's build a militant movement with a clear understanding of what's needed and the dedication to building real working-class solidarity, with our friends and allies – not our enemies.

John Parker, of the Socialist Unity Party, is on the ballot as a candidate for the U.S. Senate from California in the June primary of Election 2022. He is part of the Left Unity Slate of the Peace and Freedom Party and has been endorsed by the Green Party.

and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Donbass. Activists of left-wing groups were the first to be threatened.

Lists of unreliable have emerged. Some "left-wing activists" also started compiling lists of "wrong leftists."

On March 3, officers of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), with the participation of neo-Nazis from the Azov group, detained leftist activist Alexander Matyushenko from the Levitsa association in Dnipro (Dniprovsk).

He was charged under Article 437 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code – "waging aggressive war." And, as the courts in Ukraine do not work now, he was arrested for 30 days without trial – on the prosecutor's order.

The details of the criminal case are not known because the SBU refuses to introduce it to anyone but his lawyer. But most lawyers refuse to defend him or demand U.S. \$3,000 for their services, a rather large sum for Ukrainians.

On the same day, 12 people were detained in Dnipro on similar charges. On March 4, 14 people were detained. On March 5, 11 people were detained.

In Kiev, arrests had begun even earlier. On Feb. 27, brothers Mikhail and Aleksandr Kononovich, leaders of the Ukrainian Communist Youth, ethnic Belarusians, were detained.

It is not known where they are and what they are accused of, as there is no contact with them.

On March 4, Vladimir Ivanov, a left-wing activist from Zaporozhye, disappeared. His whereabouts are unknown. Posts that are uncharacteristic for him are appearing in his Telegram account.

On March 7, journalist Dmytro Dzhangirov, a member of the New Socialism party, Vasyl Volha, a former leader of the Union of Left Forces, journalist Yury Dudkin and publicist Aleksandr Karevin were detained in Kiev. Karevin managed to write on his Facebook page: "The SBU has come."

Where all of them are now and what they are accused of is also unknown. Dzhangirov's Facebook page posted a video of him, possibly under physical duress, saying things that are not typical of him.

On March 11, left-wing activist Spartak Golovachev disappeared in Kharkov. "The door is being broken down by armed men in Ukrainian uniforms. Goodbye," he managed to write on social media.

It should be noted that there is fighting for Kharkov, but in general it is under the control of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On March 11, in Odessa, the SBU detained Elena Vyacheslavova, the daughter of Mikhail Vyacheslavov, who died on May 2, 2014, in the fire at the Odessa House of Trade Unions.

On March 12, the SBU detained Olena Lysenko, the wife of Andriy Lysenko, a volunteer from Donetsk. On March 13, she was released, having previously recorded a video in which she slanders her husband.

On March 13, in a village near Odessa, neighbors with nationalist sentiments burned down the house of left-wing activist Dmitry Lazarev.

The whereabouts of several members of the left-wing New Socialism and Derzhava parties are also unknown. They have stopped making contact or writing anything on social media. They may be in hiding, but they may also have been detained.

All indications are that as the fighting continues, the repression of dissenters and leftists will continue. Our capacity to defend the rights of the politically repressed in Ukraine is now very limited. And solidarity with Ukrainian political prisoners by the left and human rights defenders in all countries is very important to us.

Telegram channel with updates in Russian and English: <https://t.me/repressionoftheleft>



Ukrainians granted Temporary Protected Status by the U.S., the country that displaced them

By Bayani

On March 3, the Department of Homeland Security designated Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months.

What is Temporary Protected Status?

TPS gives exemption from deportation, eligibility to apply for work authorization, and the possibility to be given authorization to travel outside the U.S. While TPS is not directly a path to legal residency or citizenship, it does not prevent you from filing for residency or citizenship.

The Department of Homeland Security decides what countries are eligible for Temporary Protected Status. They say they base their decision on what they call “temporary conditions” – an ongoing armed conflict or an environmental disaster, for example.

So is Ukraine being granted TPS a bad thing?

Of course not. The U.S. and NATO engaged in conflict with Russia through Ukraine. The least they could do is offer Ukrainians some measure of safe passage. (Of course, leave it to the fascist elements of the Ukrainian military and police to halt, harass, and murder non-white, non-Christian refugees at the border.)



People wait for transportation after crossing the Ukrainian border into Poland, in Medyka, eastern Poland, on March 11.

What's the problem then?

At issue is the double standard upheld by U.S. imperialism. In a better world, migrants and refugees would not need to rely on whether their country is eligible for Temporary Protected Status – we could travel and begin a path to citizenship anywhere in the world, for any reason. After all, multinational corporations have that freedom now.

Further, the countries currently designated for TPS are countries ei-

ther directly or indirectly under attack by U.S. imperialism. Myanmar, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen are on the list of eligible countries.

The U.S. military, via AFRICOM, occupies and bombs Somalia, for example.

Somalia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen are under the attack of U.S. sanctions, that is, economic warfare.

Saudi Arabia, with the help of U.S.

funding and arms, bombs Yemen regularly. El Salvador is still struggling decades after the U.S.-backed coup. And, of course, Syria has been the target of a U.S. proxy war campaign for nearly a decade. And so on and so on.

Meanwhile, there are still plenty of nations either under attack or reeling from intervention by the U.S., whose people now struggle tooth-and-nail to be able to live in the U.S., the nation that caused their displacement in the first place.

Undocumented students and workers have led numerous struggles for extending and maintaining TPS, for the DREAM Act, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), in many cases successfully. Migrants from all over the world fight to claim asylum, being forced to prove to the same system that displaced them that they qualify for asylum. Even Iraqis and Afghans, promised a life in the U.S. in exchange for military cooperation, have to prove their case.

That Ukraine has gained Temporary Protected Status, after having its fascist coup and fascist military and police being backed and funded by the United States, is yet another page in the book against U.S. imperialism. ■

How socialist Cuba helped Ukrainian children

By Stephen Millies

The United States Congress just cut \$15.6 billion in coronavirus aid from a budget bill. It did so to ship nearly \$14 billion in weapons and other war supplies to Ukraine. Other NATO countries have also sent billions of dollars in deadly arms.

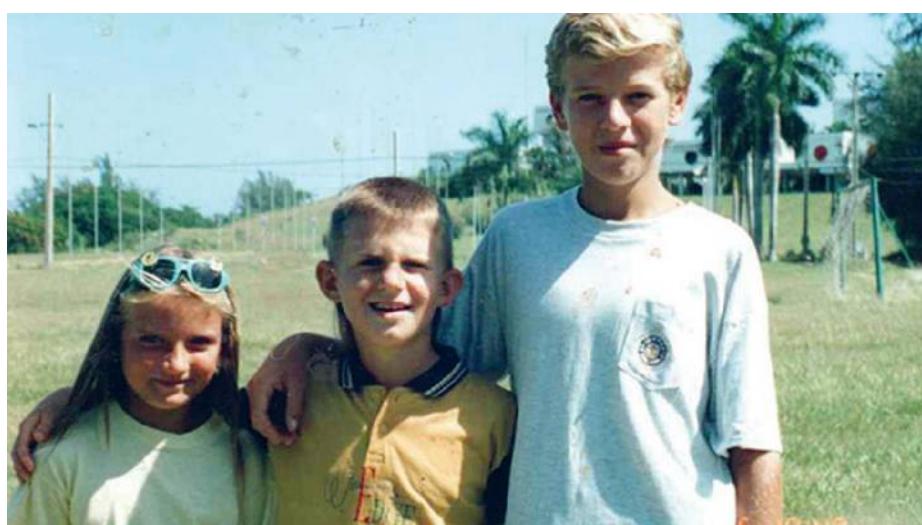
But where was the U.S. government and its NATO allies when Ukrainians desperately needed medical help following the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster?

These capitalist regimes didn't do much as Ukrainians suffered and died from radiation poisoning. It was like President Bush letting Black and poor people drown and starve in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

The April 26, 1986, Chernobyl tragedy occurred as the Soviet Union was under increasing threat from the Reagan administration. In 1983 NATO staged the “Able Archer” exercises that ended with a simulated nuclear attack on the Soviet Union.

The year before Chernobyl, in a sharp turn to the right, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party. The country of 280 million people that defeated Hitler was starting to go down a swift slope towards the overthrow of its socialist system.

The year after Chernobyl, Gosplan – the agency that guided the Soviet Union's planned socialist economy – was dissolved. So was the socialist state's control of its foreign trade that kept the capitalist world market at bay.



From the Cuban documentary film “Sacha, A Child of Chernobyl.”

These reactionary measures unraveled the socialist economy that had been built by the working class through a dozen five-year plans. The first victim was the solidarity between different nationalities and peoples.

This friendship was forged by the 1917 socialist revolution that led to the world's first and largest affirmative action program. It was further strengthened during World War II when 27 million Soviet people of a hundred ethnicities died saving the world from the Nazis.

Now it was everyone for themselves. Health care suffered as sectors became privatized.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians, as well as Belarusians and Russians, fell ill from the Chernobyl meltdown and explosion. Many died. Most heartbreaking were the children who developed cancers and other diseases.

Fidel welcomes the children

Socialist Cuba stepped up to help. The small country treated 26,000 children from the former Soviet republics between 1990 and 2011. A large majority were Ukrainian.

The first plane load of children arrived at Havana airport from the then existing Soviet Union on March 29, 1990. Even though it was late at night, Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz was there. He sympathetically greeted each of the 139 children who came.

Fidel, the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, described how this vast program came about: “This was a request from the Leninist Youth of Ukraine and later coordination with the authorities of Ukraine and the Soviet Union. We said ‘yes’ immediately and took all the necessary steps in the shortest time.

“I believe that we can give op-

timum attention to these children here. We have the necessary conditions and I hope that we can be as successful as possible.”

Tarará, a beautiful resort village on the eastern edge of Havana, was taken over to treat the children. The program lasted until Nov. 24, 2011.

During these 21 years, 26,114 children received care. The vast majority of children were saved. Over 21,000 were under 15 years old.

Thousands of surgeries were performed. The 170,000 clinical studies became an invaluable database on radiation-caused diseases in children. It was shared with the rest of the world.

No one was asked if they had insurance. In socialist Cuba health care is considered a human right – not a commodity to make profits from like in the capitalist United States.

Soon after the first children arrived Cuba was thrust into what it called a “special period.” More than two-thirds of the island country's foreign trade was cut off as counter revolutions swept the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

The U.S. continued trying to strangle the Cuban Revolution. It tightened its economic blockade with Congress passing the Helms-Burton bill.

Yet not a single Cuban hospital or school was closed. Cuba continued to treat Chernobyl survivors at no cost to their families.

Sacha's story

Many of the sick children stayed

Continued on page 9

Who's the war criminal?

By Stephen Millies

On March 16, President Joe Biden called Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin a war criminal. How is this different from the white-supremacist Sen. Lindsey Graham demanding Putin's assassination?

One week later, Biden ordered flags lowered to half-mast across the United States upon the death of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Albright has been called an unindicted war criminal. Albright was known as the Butcher of Serbia.

In the former Yugoslavia, the 1998-1999 conflict there is called by some "Madeleine's War." Albright, a key member of the Clinton administration, championed the 78-day bombardment of Yugoslavia by NATO — which started exactly 23 years ago this month.

Cuba helped

Continued from page 8

at Tarará for 45 days. Others stayed longer, sometimes a year or more. That was the case of Olexandr Savchenko, nicknamed Sacha.

The young boy was from the Ukrainian village of Chernigov near Chernobyl. About a year after the explosion Sacha became sick.

In Cuba it was discovered he had a cancerous tumor. Chemotherapy is particularly rough for kids but Sacha pulled through. When the test results came back normal, meaning the cancer had disappeared, everyone around Sacha clapped.

Not every child won their battle with cancer. But the Cubans did everything they could.

Many of the children had skin diseases including alopecia, which results in the loss of all body hair. Here psychologists played a key role.

Children learned not to be ashamed of themselves. The friendships formed along with the beautiful beach were part of the remedy.

Young women survivors would hold joint quinceañera celebrations of their fifteenth birthdays. Cuban translators became a vital connection between health workers and children.

A wonderful film about this humanitarian program is "Sacha, A Child of Chernobyl." It can be seen on YouTube.

The film was directed by Cuban film-makers Roberto Chile and Maribel Acosta Damas and produced by the Argentine news agency Resumen Latinoamericano. Included are remarks by Her Excellency, Lianys Torres Rivera, the Cuban Ambassador to the United States.

The late Pan-African teacher and organizer Elombe Brath, a founder of the December 12th Movement, declared "When Africa called, Cuba answered."

Over 2,000 Cuban soldiers died fighting alongside their African comrades in Angola. Together they defeated the Nazi armies of apartheid South Africa.

Socialist Cuba also answered when Ukrainian children needed help. Many Ukrainians haven't forgotten. □

Before that in Iraq. Here's what Albright, then Clinton's Secretary of State, said in 1996 on the CBS show "60 Minutes" in an interview with Lesley Stahl:

Lesley Stahl on U.S. sanctions against Iraq: "We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?"

Madeleine Albright: "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price — we think the price is worth it".

The actual figure given by a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization report in 1995 was that 567,000 Iraqi children under the age of five had died as a result of the U.S. sanctions. But to war criminal Albright, "the price is worth it."

Children died because Iraq was forbidden by sanctions to import so-called dual-use items like chlorine, which is used to purify water and treat sewage. As a result typhoid and other water-borne diseases soared.

The notorious interview is known around the world for its defense of mass murder. But you won't find any mention of it in the New York Times' obituary of Albright.

This is the great, liberal New York Times, that claims to include "all the news that's fit to print." Nobody should trust its coverage of the war drive against Russia.

The 81 million people who voted against Trump and racism shouldn't trust Joe Biden, either. Racist Lindsey Graham is trying to stop Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson from becoming the first Black woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.

But when it comes to Russia, Biden and Graham see eye-to-eye.

Why aren't Kissinger, Cheney & Bush arrested?

If Biden is so concerned about war criminals, why hasn't he had Henry Kissinger arrested? The former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor committed war crimes on three continents.

Millions more people were killed in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam because Kissinger and Nixon refused to sign a peace treaty until 1973. If they had signed the same treaty in 1969 — as Vietnam asked them to — 20,000 less GIs would have come home in a box.

Kissinger gave the go ahead for the original 9/11, the bloody overthrow of the elected socialist Chilean president Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973.

"I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people," said Kissinger. "The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves."

That's self-determination according to the U.S. State Department and Wall Street.

"You did a great service to the West in overthrowing Allende," Kissinger told the dictator Pinochet, who had thousands tortured to death.

Kissinger also gave a green light for the Indonesian dictator Suharto to invade East Timor. One out of three people in East Timor were killed.

Kissinger wanted to invade Cuba for its military support of the People's Republic of Angola in defeat-



The smoldering wreckage of a passenger train in Serbia after being hit by two missiles launched from a NATO F-15, April 12, 1999. At least 20 commuters were killed.

ing the Nazi army of then-apartheid South Africa.

Angola saved thousands of African lives by sending the CIA mercenary Costas Georgiou to the firing squad and thus intimidating other killers for hire.

U.S. and NATO-paid mercenaries have flocked to Ukraine. Alongside fascist gangs like the Azov Battalion, they are propping up Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has banned every political party except his own.

Let's not forget the war crimes of Dick Cheney and the Bush family. Former Vice President Cheney called the torture of thousands of Muslims to be "enhanced interrogation." Cheney's sidekick — befuddled White House occupant George W. Bush — presided over a million people killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

George's daddy — President George H.W. Bush — invaded Panama. The Pentagon never revealed the number of people killed there.

Earlier as CIA director, Daddy Bush had Cubana de Aviación Flight 455 bombed on Oct. 6, 1976. All 73 people on board were killed; it was a revenge murder for Cuba's support of African liberation.

Capitalism built on war crimes

War crimes made America "great." Over a hundred Indigenous nations were invaded.

Massacres started with the Pilgrims and extended beyond Wounded Knee. Keeping the political prisoner-of-war Leonard Peltier in jail for 46 years is a war crime.

The African Holocaust never stopped either. U.S. and world capitalism was built upon it.

Wall Street became the country's financial center by being the banking house for Southern slave owners. While today New York City has municipal green markets, it once operated a slave market on Wall Street.

By recognizing Belgian King Leopold's "Congo Free State," U.S. President Chester Arthur provided political cover for murdering 8-to-15 million Africans for rubber profits. President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the assassination of Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba.

Locking up 2.2 million people is a war crime. As a U.S. Senator, Joe Biden pushed through the 1994 "Viol-

ent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act" that guaranteed imprisoning hundreds of thousands more Black, Indigenous and Latinx people.

Stealing half of Mexico was a war crime. In the so-called Mexican-American War of 1846-48, a slave-holders' army invaded Mexico, which was an abolitionist nation. General Zachary Taylor's artillery pounded the city of Matamoros, killing hundreds of civilians. Villages were pillaged and plundered. In the end the U.S. occupied and took all or parts of the current states of California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona. Millions of acres of Mexican land were stolen from the Indigenous Peoples and Mexican farmers who lived there; more than a hundred thousand died. South Carolina's John Calhoun, speaking in praise of the seizure of Mexican land, declared, "Ours is the government of the white man!"

A rerun of Yugoslavia?

President Biden was directed to call President Putin a war criminal because the Pentagon wants a rerun of the Yugoslavia tragedy.

NATO planes bombed Yugoslavia, the last socialist country in Europe, for 78 days in 1999. Yugoslavia's elected President Slobodan Milošević was kidnapped and framed on war crimes charges because he resisted NATO.

Milošević died suddenly just as it looked like he could win an appeal. For some observers this was reminiscent of Lee Harvey Oswald's assassin Jack Ruby dying suddenly after he was granted a new trial.

The Pentagon wants to give President Putin the same treatment or just be assassinated. To the bankers that run the United States, it's intolerable that the six million square miles of the Russian Federation isn't occupied by U.S. and NATO troops.

Neither Joe Biden nor the New York Times has ever denounced the deaths of over 14,000 people in the Donbass. This real war crime was committed at the hands of a Ukrainian regime supported by the U.S. and NATO.

The Russian Federation is giving indispensable help to anti-fascists in Ukraine. Don't be fooled by the capitalist media. Hands off Russia and the Donbass! □

Stop NATO! No war on Russia and Donbass

By John Parker

If you happen to be in downtown Los Angeles and come across Skid Row, everywhere you look there is evidence of suffering from the humanitarian war crime of capitalism and homelessness. I'm reminded of the tens of thousands facing the same fate due to low wages, joblessness and rents driven up by perfectly legal exorbitant increases. If you're not already homeless, you may be soon if this economic war against us continues to spread, like the unchecked virus enabled by capitalism.

The 7.9% inflation rate doesn't help. The main culprits being food, rent and especially – thanks to the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine – gas. Not only that, the \$16 billion covid-relief fund was cut for this war.

But, no problem. Working-class folks, even those facing desperate circumstances, understand sacrifice for the sake of others, especially children's lives.

The reality, however, is that our sacrifice for this war is not for children, but for the profits of those in the U.S. whose existence depends on the expansion of war and misery.

But, what about all the news reports of civilians being targeted by the Russians and that "crazy" Putin?

The first thing that occurs when plans for imperialist war are finally implemented (see Ukraine: It was all written in the Rand Corp plan 3 years ago) is the vilification of the latest targets of U.S. imperialism, and the individuals that represent those targets.

In 1915, when Britain wanted to escalate war with Germany during World War I, they launched the British cruise liner Lusitania, traveling from New York to Liverpool, England, through a declared maritime war zone. Germany had already made it very clear on numerous occasions that any British ship in that zone would be considered an enemy vessel and would be attacked. So, it was attacked and thousands died. The tragedy was used to justify the U.S. entrance into the war two years later. The New York Times prominently featured photos of those killed. The U.S. used this coverage as a primary tool for propaganda and military recruitment.

After World War I, it was exposed that the sunken Lusitania was also carrying 50 tons of ammunition. This kind of tactic is being used again to sell the current war, but first let's get some context.

From 1990 to 1991 the Soviet Union was given assurances from the U.S. and Western European countries that an expansion of the U.S.-led anti-Soviet military alliance, NATO, would not happen – and especially not move eastward towards them (NATO Expansion: What Gorbachev Heard). The Soviet Union in 1991 therefore unilaterally dissolved their military alliance – the Warsaw Pact. Eight years later, with no Warsaw Pact to protect them, the U.S. directed a NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia that destroyed tens of thousands of homes, roads, hospitals, crowded markets, passenger trains, and the Chinese Embassy, killing three Chinese journalists. This was followed by bombings of Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan

and many more NATO operations on the continent of Africa in the years following.

For the last 20 years NATO has doubled its member armies, expanding eastward and surrounding Russia.

Yet, in spite of the Russian government's repeated warnings against turning Ukraine, which borders them, into another NATO member state with possible nuclear weapons, the U.S. poured more gas on the fire. They not only orchestrated a coup in 2014 to put in an anti-Russian, pro-NATO regime, but also began sending billions of dollars in funds, weapons and training to openly Nazi battalions that are now official sections of the Ukrainian military. In February, the U.S. then pushed those Nazi forces to escalate bombings of the Donbass region against a Russian-speaking minority population.

This was the Lusitania-like provocation, by the U.S. Those in the Donbass region pleaded for help from the Russian government to save their children. Since 2014 they have endured eight years of torture and bombings, with 14,000 killed. Then in February came this increased genocidal assault by the main terrorist Nazi threat, the Azov Battalion. Russia then decided it had no choice but to answer the call of the people in the Donbass and stop an existential threat on its borders – the possibility of a U.S.-led NATO state with nuclear weapons controlled by a Nazi-led military.

This is what the U.S. government with bipartisan support has done – they've pushed the world into a conflict that could start World War III, gambling the futures of our children and those abroad solely for the sake of profits.

These wars are, again, eased through with stories to push our buttons of evil men and evil deeds you're just now finding out about. We've been here before and a look at the history of just one "newspaper of record" shows how the media has been an essential part of the Pentagon arsenal. Take this headline in the New York Times in August 1964: "REDS DRIVEN OFF; Two Torpedo Vessels Believed Sunk in Gulf of Tonkin." The article begins:

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4—The Defense Department announced tonight that North Vietnamese PT boats made a "deliberate attack" today on two United States destroyers patrolling international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam.

Although the story was a total lie, it served to begin the U.S.-escalated war on Vietnam. On the day it was published, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. This authorized a war on Vietnam (without a formal declaration of war), giving the President broad authority in the use of military force, which escalated by 1968 to a half-million U.S. troops occupying Vietnam. More than 2 million civilians in both North and South Vietnam were killed during the war. In addition, the use of millions of gallons of the chemical weapon Agent Orange, sprayed throughout by the U.S. military from 1961 to 1971, killed or maimed an-



NATO sharply increases its forces in Eastern Europe. NATO announced it was doubling, to eight, the number of countries in Eastern Europe where it has battlegroups. – New York Times March 25, 2022

other 400,000. Some 500,000 children were born with chemical warfare-caused birth defects.

Six months before the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan, in 1979 the Carter Administration began funding the new "freedom fighters" – the Mujahideen, which became the Taliban – in a war against a revolutionary government that, among other progressive reforms, had established for the first time laws mandating the equality of women. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, overwhelmed by U.S. military armed and funded Mujahideen, requested help from the Soviet Union. The Soviets were also worried about the threat of a possible U.S.-sponsored Mujahideen regime on their border. Sound familiar? This created the endless war in Afghanistan.

Nevermind that. Quick, look over there! An evil dictator in Iraq must be stopped now!

Here's more headlines from the "newspaper of record": Czechs Confirm Iraqi Agent Met With Terror Ringleader; December 20, 2001: Iraqi Tells of Renovations at Sites for Chemical and Nuclear Arms; April 21, 2003: Illicit Arms Kept Till Eve of War, an Iraqi Scientist Is Said to Assert; and here's a big one on April 24, 2003: U.S.-Led Forces Occupy Baghdad Complex Filled with Chemical Agents.

The problem with all these stories, and admitted by the New York Times in a published apology, is that none of them are true. They say it was the result of bad information with little verification. We're just looking at the New York Times here but, you could look into the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, CNN, or any corporate newspaper and find the same misinformation passed off as truth and accepted as such by politicians, talk-show hosts, Hollywood scripts, celebrity campaigns and most of us during whatever latest war they point our heads toward.

The reporter on that last story and many of these stories was Judith Miller and this is what Miller had to say about the numerous unchecked

lies in numerous unchecked articles selling a U.S. war that killed 500,000 children: "My job isn't to assess the government's information and be an independent intelligence analyst myself. My job is to tell readers of The New York Times what the government thought about Iraq's arsenal."

In that "apology" from the editors of the Times they correctly stated that the fault was not just of the journalists reporting the story but the verification process – a process that accepted without question information lining up with the narrative of the State Department. Unfortunately, like racism, that process is very much a component of the military industrial complex.

In 1996 Lesley Stahl of 60 Minutes interviewed then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about the death of children in Iraq due to the U.S. war: "We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?"

Albright replied calmly: "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price – we think the price is worth it." This, based on evidence her administration knew was a lie. One of the definitions of evil in the Merriam-Webster dictionary is "something that brings sorrow, distress, or calamity." Even evil seems too soft of a word to describe U.S. imperialism and its enablers.

Today, along with the corporate media, Congress is again playing its part in the war drive – Congress just approved \$800 million more for the Ukrainian government and their Nazi battalions, which, again since it's never mentioned, has been bombing the eastern region and committing war crimes against civilians in Lugansk and Donetsk FOR MORE THAN 8 YEARS, killing at least 14,000 civilians.

This faith in the U.S. State Department's information comes in spite of the knowledge of contradictory news being suppressed in Ukraine. Three television stations were closed for not reporting coverage favorable to the Ukrainian government. Much information came out in Ukraine exposing the Azov Battalion when they took over hospitals, schools and apartment buildings in Mariupol that were then shown in the U.S. media as civilian buildings and not Azov Battalion outposts. Doctored and mislabeled videos and photos were prevalent during the beginning of the Russian intervention, even showing Israeli bombings and Palestinian resistance as "evidence" of Russian brutality and Ukrainian resistance.

The bombing by Nazi-led forces of the center of the city of Donetsk, killing over 20 civilians waiting at an ATM machine, was verified by various organizations in Donetsk, media outlets and independent journalists in the Donbass region. But, you never saw that report because the TV reporters and news publications in Ukraine that report those types of stories have been closed down. The journalists or activists who have reported this missile attack on civilian Donetsk, like Alexander Matyushenko from the Levitsa Association

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On the 19th anniversary of Iraq War:

The U.S. government lied about Iraq – it's lying about Russia & Ukraine

EXPOSE THE LIES

March 20 marks 19 years since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, based on a lie about “weapons of mass destruction.” The U.S. always lies about its wars. Here’s how Washington and NATO provoked the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

Lie #1: Russia is the aggressor against Ukraine

Russia didn’t start the war. Ukraine has been at war for eight years against the Donbass republics, Donetsk and Luhansk. Ukraine’s war has cost over 14,000 lives in Donbass. Like Yemen, U.S. media ignored the human toll and U.S. role in the conflict. For months, Washington pushed Ukraine to invade Donbass again. Russia only intervened to stop a bloodbath and end the war, as well as to ensure the neutrality of its neighbor. Ukraine continues to commit daily war crimes in Donbass, including a March 14 missile attack that killed more than 20 people in Donetsk.

Lie #2: Ukraine is a democracy that must be defended

In 2014 a violent coup overthrew the legally elected government of Ukraine, which tried to maintain friendly relations with both the West and Russia. The coup was supported by U.S. officials and both Republican and Democratic politicians. The new government banned political parties, kept national minorities from using their languages, and engaged in repression against journalists and oppositionists. Neo-Nazi groups played a major role in the coup. Today they infest the Ukrainian state from top to bottom. These groups work with white supremacists in the U.S. and Europe and pose a danger to people everywhere.

Lie #3: The U.S. is an innocent bystander

The U.S. poured the gasoline, lit the match and fans the flames of war. Biden sent hundreds of tons of weapons to Ukraine and pushed Russia into a corner. Why? To justify further expansion of NATO, undermine Russia’s sovereignty and increase profits by sanctioning Russian exports. Washington ignored Russia’s serious concerns about Ukraine’s neutrality and NATO expansion for decades. The U.S. sabotaged the Minsk agreements meant to make peace in the region. It pressured its EU “partners” to sink a pipeline agreement with Russia for the benefit of U.S. Big Oil and Wall Street banks.

Lie #4: Poor and working people should sacrifice

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi justified torpedoing money to fight COVID from the budget because “We’ve got a war going on in Ukraine.” Congress agrees: There’s plenty of money for war. Meanwhile prices of gas, food and rents are skyrocketing. Public schools are in crisis. Millions face eviction with the end of pandemic protections, while money continues to fund state-sponsored white supremacy. Police brutality and repression against immigrants continues unabated, while President Biden pushes racist violence with calls to “Fund the police,” in the same breath as he funds Nazi-led armed forces in Ukraine. We reject the bipartisan policy of war against people at home and abroad.

Help expose the lies.

Build a movement for people’s needs, not war!



En el 19º aniversario de la Guerra de Irak:

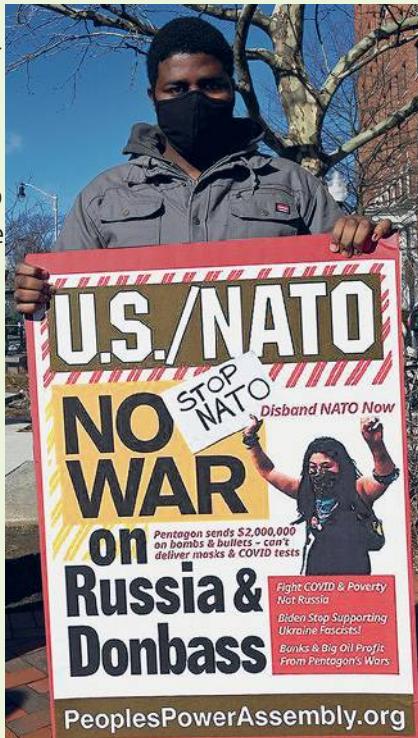
El gobierno de EUA mintió sobre Irak y miente sobre Rusia y Ucrania

EXPONGAMOS LAS MENTIRAS

El 20 de marzo se cumplen 19 años desde la invasión estadounidense de Irak, basada en una mentira sobre “armas de destrucción masiva”. Estados Unidos siempre miente sobre sus guerras. Aquí se muestra cómo Washington y la OTAN provocaron el conflicto entre Ucrania y Rusia.

Mentira #1: Rusia es el agresor contra Ucrania

Rusia no empezó la guerra. Ucrania ha estado en guerra durante ocho años contra las repúblicas del Donbass, Donetsk y Lugansk. La guerra de Ucrania ha costado más de 14.000 vidas en Donbass. Al igual que en Yemen, los medios estadounidenses ignoraron el costo humano y el papel de EUA en el conflicto. Durante meses, Washington presionó a Ucrania para que volviera a invadir Donbass. Rusia solo intervino para detener un baño de sangre y poner fin a la guerra, así como para garantizar la neutralidad de su vecino. Ucrania continúa cometiendo crímenes de guerra diarios en Donbass, incluyendo un ataque con misiles el 14 de marzo que mató a más de 20 personas en Donetsk.



Mentira #2: Ucrania es una democracia que debe ser defendida

En 2014, un violento golpe de Estado derrocó al gobierno elegido legalmente de Ucrania, que intentaba mantener relaciones amistosas tanto con Occidente como con Rusia. El golpe fue apoyado por funcionarios estadounidenses y políticos republicanos y demócratas. El nuevo gobierno prohibió los partidos políticos, impidió que las minorías nacionales usaran sus idiomas y emprendió la represión contra periodistas y opositores. Los grupos neonazis jugaron un papel importante en el golpe, y hoy infestan el estado ucraniano de arriba abajo. Estos grupos trabajan con supremacistas blancos en EUA y Europa y representan un peligro para las personas en todas partes.

Mentira #3: Estados Unidos es un espectador inocente

Estados Unidos echó gasolina, encendió el fósforo y avivó las llamas de la guerra. Biden envió cientos de toneladas de armas a Ucrania y arrinconó a Rusia. ¿Por qué? Para justificar una mayor expansión de la OTAN, socavar la soberanía de Rusia y aumentar las ganancias sancionando las exportaciones rusas. Washington ignoró las serias preocupaciones de Rusia sobre la neutralidad de Ucrania y la expansión de la OTAN durante décadas. Estados Unidos saboteó los acuerdos de Minsk destinados a mantener la paz en la región. Presionó a sus “socios” de la UE para destruir un acuerdo de oleoducto con Rusia y así beneficiar las grandes petroleras estadounidenses y los bancos de Wall Street.

Mentira #4: Las/os pobres y las/os trabajadores deberían sacrificarse

La presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes Nancy Pelosi, justificó cortar dinero del presupuesto para luchar contra COVID porque “Tenemos una guerra en Ucrania”. El Congreso coincide: hay mucho dinero para la guerra. Mientras tanto, los precios de la gasolina, la comida y los alquileres se están disparando. Las escuelas públicas están en crisis. Millones se enfrentan al desalojo por el fin de las protecciones contra la pandemia, mientras que el dinero continúa financiando la supremacía blanca patrocinada por el estado. La brutalidad policial y la represión contra las/os inmigrantes continúan sin cesar, mientras que el presidente Biden impulsa la violencia racista con llamados a “financiar a la policía”, al mismo tiempo que financia las fuerzas armadas dirigidas por los nazis en Ucrania. Rechazamos la política bipartidista de guerra contra las personas en este país y en el exterior.

**Ayudemos a exponer las mentiras.
¡Construyamos un movimiento para las necesidades de las personas, no para la guerra!**

PARTIDO DE SOCIALISMO UNIDO ★ SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY
Struggle-La-Lucha.org



Puerto Rico: Éxitos, en las calles



FOTO: CARLOS EDILL BERRÍOS POLANCO/LATINO REBELS
Maestros protestan por aumentos salariales y contra recortes de pensiones en San Juan, Puerto Rico, 4 de febrero de 2022.

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Mientras logramos nuestra soberanía con independencia y sacar al invasor gringo, vamos caminando por la senda correcta, en las calles, enfrentando las injusticias del gobierno local cómplice del ocupante yanqui.

Los ojos del pueblo se van abriendo y comprobando que quienes nos gobiernan, no tienen los intereses nuestros como su hoja de ruta. Más bien es la corrupción, la mentira, los intereses particulares de compañías e individuos millonarios lo que prevalece y lo que defiende este gobierno.

Estos días se han ido revelando otra serie de escándalos como el de las escoltas. En un país en quiebra, donde nunca ha habido una amenaza real contra ningún oficial del gobierno, se está gastando más de mil millones del erario público para escoltar al ejecutivo, a ex goberna-

dores, miembros de gabinetes, etc.

Mientras tanto, dicen que no hay dinero para pagarles a los y las trabajadoras del servicio público.

Pero esta farsa está siendo expuesta y derrumbada por las magníficas manifestaciones que han estado llenando nuestras calles los últimos meses. Particularmente, las lideradas por el magisterio. Tanta fuerza han tenido, que el gobierno e incluso la Junta de Control Fiscal, tuvieron que acceder a las exigencias de una subida de salarios y compensaciones justas para maestras y maestros. Incluso, lo que corresponde a un retiro digno – ese presupuesto que tanto rehusaba aceptar la Junta, ha sido considerado.

Esto no es dádiva ni buena administración del gobierno, sino gracias a las lideresas del magisterio que han mantenido el fuego de la indignación en las calles. □

¿Nueva era en Puerto Rico? De miseria y lucha

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

El pasado 14 de marzo, las televisiones boricuas publicaron un corto mensaje pre grabado del gobernador Pierluisi donde anunciablea con bombos y platillos una Nueva Era para Puerto Rico. Supuestamente ya no estamos en quiebra y se abre ¡Una era de prosperidad!

Eso, porque el próximo día se cumpliría el plazo para la implementación del Plan de Ajuste de la Deuda - ilegal y odiosa - impuesto por el Congreso estadounidense a través de su Junta de control Fiscal.

Tanto el ejecutivo como la legislatura hicieron todo lo posible para desoír los reclamos del pueblo y obedecieron ciegamente a la JCF y ese 15 de marzo comenzó a regir la prioridad de pagarle a los bonistas mucho

más de lo que habían pagado inicialmente por los bonos, antes que cubrir las necesidades del pueblo.

Comenzó la destrucción del país: comenzó el aumento masivo en el costo de vida que ya de por sí es insostenible. Los recortes en programas que benefician a las personas con más desventajas, la reducción de pensiones, como por ejemplo del magisterio que han llevado a que 2,800 educadores se retiren ahora para poder conservar su jubilación, porque de lo contrario vivirían en una miseria absoluta después de 30 años de servicio al país.

Decenas de los 78 municipios existentes que son quienes ofrecen los servicios a su población en situaciones de emergencia podrían cerrar. Hasta la Escuela pública de Medicina - en medio de una pandemia - per-



dería su acreditación por los recortes tan profundos que se la ha impuesto.

Por eso aquí no queda más que ir contra el gobierno y sus lacayos y contra la dominación yanki. □



Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

Fund racial justice, not the police!

Continued from page 3

havior or not.

George Zimmerman, the vigilante who killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, believed he was providing a needed service to his neighborhood. So did the two vigilantes, Gregory McMichael and Travis McMichael, who killed 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery while William Bryan recorded the fatal shooting. The McMichaels reported the murder; Bryan turned in the video footage and was sent home, no arrests made. Two months later a local attorney published Bryan's video and it went viral. The McMichaels were arrested and Bryan was arrested shortly after. If this is the way it works for non-police, imagine what the racist police officers get away with daily. The frequency of police murders and the intense racist, corrupt criminal justice system makes it evident that the whole criminal justice system needs to go.

The greatest purveyor of violence

The words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are as true today as they

were when he said them 55 years ago: "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world today, my own government."

The primary role of the police is to serve the rich and protect their private property. The hundreds of thousands participating in protests nationwide are working hard to change this. What the protesters must realize is that only a revolution will change this criminal justice system ... a socialist revolution.

The solution to crime prevention is not to "fund, fund, fund" the police, but to abolish the police and let working people — especially those in the oppressed communities most targeted by police — be empowered to create their own methods of safety in their communities, that reject racism and respect the right to life and human dignity. A better solution would be to fund movements for racial justice, equality, and a world where human needs are valued more than the private property of the rich.

Every day younger activists are reading and studying socialism. This is a good thing. □

Stop NATO! No war on Russia & Donbass

Continued from page 10

in Dnipro (Dnipro), or the 37 other journalists detained in early March, have been jailed. In Kiev, arrests began even earlier. On Feb. 27, brothers Mikhail Kononovich and Aleksandr Kononovich, leaders of the Ukrainian Communist Youth, members of the World Federation of Democratic Youth as well as ethnic Belarusians, were seized and are being imprisoned along with members of other organizations we in the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha have been working with in Donbass. Last week I was communicating with someone from one of those organizations.

All of those detained are held on dubious charges with little explanation from authorities and are being denied legal representation.

The children who died in Iraq are

just the tip of the iceberg of victims of U.S. and NATO wars, including the millions killed in Vietnam, Korea, Yugoslavia, Libya and Yemen. Now in Libya, because of the war by the Obama administration and destruction of civil society, slavery exists — a reality that undoubtedly is destroying the lives of children. In Yemen, the U.S. proxy war led by Saudi Arabia is now causing the starvation of millions of children, according to UN estimates.

If only those corporate editors of the media were as dedicated to exposing the war on children as they are in pushing for illegal and inhumane wars and proxy wars by the U.S., like the war in Ukraine now.

John Parker, of the Socialist Unity Party, is on the ballot as a candidate for the U.S. Senate from California in the June primary of Election 2022. .

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA
for Socialism / por el Socialismo